

PATENT
450100-04709**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1 and 2 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0004984 to Chou (referred to in the Office Action as "David").

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"connecting means for connecting said data storage unit of said service provider with one or more terminal apparatuses associated with each of said users via said computer network independently of types of said terminal apparatuses

... wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means converts stored data in said file storing means into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the requesting user for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said requesting user has sent said use request." (emphasis added).

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As understood by the Applicants, Chou discloses a transcoder server to transcode a first webpage language to a second language for a mobile phone or to create personal wireless webpages and store the created personal webpages in a user's profile database for future use. The output can be selected and outputted according to the used mobile phone or PDA. Thus, in Chou the transcoded pages are associated only with the user's mobile phone or PDA. There is no disclosure that the transcoded pages are distributed to other users.

In contrast, claim 1 recites, "one or more terminal apparatuses associated with each of said users." In present invention there are multiple users each being able to access the stored data through any of the one or more terminal apparatuses.

Moreover, claim 1 also recites, "wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means converts stored data in said file storing means into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the requesting user for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said requesting user has sent said use request."

Thus, in the present invention, based upon a request from a user, data of different formats may be provided from the apparatus of a user in question to the requesting user in a format suitable to the requester.

This feature is not disclosed in Chou because that reference does not disclose a data storage system serving multiple users each having a plurality of data devices wherein data is transferred from one user in a certain format to another user using a different format.

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III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Chou in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0037241 to Puri.

Puri does not add the element missing from Chou as discussed above.

Further, claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

"... data disclosure controlling means to enable each user to manage the use conditions under which the respective stored data in said data storing means are allowed to be used;

... wherein said data disclosure controlling means enables the data for which said use conditions have been set by each user to be used by users other than the user who stored the data in question into said data storing means." (emphasis added).

Thus, claim 2 adds the additional element that the storage system enables each user to manage the conditions of use for their respective stored data. Further, the storage system enables each user to set the use conditions for differently for each respective other user.

Claim 2 is patentable over Chou and Puri for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the additional reasons discussed with respect to claim 2.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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